

To Spread Awareness Among Girls

***347 Sh. Ishwar Singh, M. L. A. :** Will Health Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that girls have less knowledge about modern hygienic practices during menstruation in rural areas, if so, the steps taken by the Government to spread awareness among girls in rural areas of State about above mentioned practices together with the details thereof ?

Sh. Anil Vij, Health Minister, Haryana

Sir, a statement is laid on the Table of the House

Statement of Sh. Anil Vij in reply to *347:

There is no such study available in Haryana regarding less knowledge about modern hygienic practices during menstruation among rural adolescent girls. However it has been observed that at some places in rural areas, the adolescent girls are less aware.

Adolescent Health Counselors are doing outreach activities in schools and are delivering Health Talks on various health issues including menstrual hygiene. These counselors adopt various strategies like audio video play, role plays and other study materials (charts etc) related to subject to sensitize the target beneficiaries. This is an ongoing activity.

Govt of India has also developed an APP named SATHIYA for peer educators to address adolescent health issues including Menstrual Hygiene. Peer Educators under Rashtriya Kishore Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK) are using this app for awareness generation among their peers during their monthly meetings.

NOTE FOR THE PAD

There is no such study available in Haryana regarding less knowledge about modern hygienic practices during menstruation among rural adolescent girls. However it has been observed that at some places in rural areas, the adolescent girls are less aware. Considering the importance of Menstrual Hygiene among adolescent girls and to spread awareness among rural adolescent girls also to provide them low cost sanitary napkin packets through ASHAs, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MOHFW), Govt. of India (GOI) started Menstrual Hygiene Scheme (MHS) for rural adolescent girls. NHM Haryana also launched this Scheme in February 2014 in 8 districts to start with as per GOI guidelines.

Reproductive health is a crucial part of general health and a central feature of human development. Reproductive health deals with the reproductive processes, functions and system at all stages of life. It is a reflection of health during childhood, and crucial during adolescence and adulthood, sets the stage for health beyond the reproductive years for both women and men, and affects the health of the next generation. Reproductive health is a universal concern, but is of special importance for women particularly during the reproductive years.

A woman's first menstruation is termed menarche, and occurs typically around age 12-13. The end of a woman's reproductive phase is called the menopause, which commonly occurs somewhere between the ages of 45 and 55. Adolescent girls constitute one fifth of the female population in the world. Hygienic insufficiencies are considered to be one of the reasons for maternal morbidity. Multiple studies have revealed that unhygienic conditions during periods are one of the major causes of cervical cancer. Adolescent girls constitute one fifth of the female population in the world. In India—nearly one-third of the country's population—are young people aged 10–24 (RGI 2001). Hygienic insufficiencies are

considered to be one of the reasons for maternal morbidity which is still high at between 250 and 450 per 100,000 live births, according to a 2010 UNICEF report. Other Reproductive Tract Infections primarily related to a lack of hygiene are also widespread in the country.

A. Menstrual Hygiene Scheme (MHS) - GOI guidelines

Objective of Menstrual Hygiene Scheme (MHS)

- To increase awareness among adolescent girls on menstrual hygiene, build self-esteem, and empower girls for greater socialization
- To increase access to and use of high quality sanitary napkins by adolescent girls in rural areas
- To ensure safe disposal of sanitary napkins in an environment friendly manner.

Target group of MHS & implementation process

- 25% (as per census 2011 population) rural adolescent girls of 10-19 years of age & ASHAs

Overall Strategy

The scheme adopts two key strategies:

- Demand generation through ASHA
- Supply side intervention through ensuring a supply of a product (sanitary napkin) which is reasonably priced and of high quality.

Launch of MHS in Haryana

- NHM Haryana also implemented MHS program as per GOI guidelines and launched MHS program in February 2014 in 8 districts to start with.

- Beneficiaries were 2,08,981 rural adolescent girls and 8207 ASHAs in 8 districts namely- Jind, Hisar, Sirsa, Sonapat, Bhiwani, Karnal, Mahendergarh and Mewat.

Guidelines of GOI for MHS implementation

- Govt. of India provided funds of Rs. 8/- for each sanitary napkin packet having 6 pads.
- ASHA sold one packet to beneficiary at the rate of Rs. 6/- per packet.
- ASHA kept Rs. 1/- for each sold packet as incentive.
- ASHA got one free packet per month for personal use and
- Each month, ASHA conducted a monthly meeting with targeted girls to sell the sanitary napkin packets and also to sensitize about related health issues.
- ASHA got Rs. 50/- per month for the monthly meetings.
- ASHA deposited the monthly report and funds collected from sale proceeds to ANM of sub centre.
- ANM compiled reports of all ASHAs under her sub centre and submitted the report with collected funds to related PHC incharge.
- PHC Incharge compiled the reports of all ANMs of his area and submitted the compiled report and deposited the collected funds at the CHC account (user free sanitary napkin account).
- CHC incharge compiled the reports of all PHCs and details of funds collected in mentioned user free account and submitted the compiled report of MHS to District Program Officer.
- District Program Officer compiled the reports of all CHCs with collected funds at block level user free sanitary napkin account and submitted the report to State Program Officer.

- State Program Officer compiled the reports of all implementing districts along with the details of funds collected at block level user free sanitary napkin account and submitted to GOI.

Implementation of MHS in Haryana

- During FY 2014-15 and 2015-16 (till August 2015), number of sanitary napkin packets procured were 7,25,233 sanitary packets through Integrated Procurement Division (IPD), Haryana.
- The program was implemented in 56 blocks of 8 districts.
- Rs. 30,54,798 of sale proceeds are available at District Health Societies in User Fee Sanitary Napkin Account of all 8 implementing districts.
- The program is on hold since August 2015 due to administrative reasons.
- Budget for the procurement of sanitary napkin packets has already been transferred to HMSCL. As per information received from HMSCL about the status of procurement, the case of procurement of Sanitary Napkins for approval is under consideration to Government. As soon as the approval of government will be received, accordingly the procurement may be done.

B. Health Talks in Schools by Adolescent Health Counselors till date

Adolescent Health Counselors are doing outreach activities in schools and are delivering Health Talks on various health issues including menstrual hygiene. These counselors adopt various strategies like audio video play, role plays and other study materials (charts etc) related to subject to sensitize the target beneficiaries.

Use of Sathiya App by Peer Educators

Sathiya App is developed by MOHFW, GOI for various issues related to adolescent health including menstrual hygiene. In Haryana, under Rashtriya

Kishor Swasthya Karyakrum (RKSK) 4 Peer Educators (2 male & 2 female) are formed at the population of 1000. These Peer Educators are trained in adolescent health issues and are provided Peer Educator Kit including study material etc. These Educators take monthly meetings with their peers to sensitize them on adolescent health issues. Menstrual Hygiene is also being discussed during these meetings and Sathiya app is also being utilized for the subject.

C. **Celebration of Menstrual Hygiene Day (28th May 2019)**

Menstrual Hygiene Day is an annual awareness day on May 28 to highlight the importance of good menstrual hygiene management (MHM). It was initiated by the German-based NGO WASH United in 2014 and aims to benefit women and girls worldwide. The 28th was selected to acknowledge that 28 days is the average length of the menstrual cycle. The day offers an opportunity to actively advocate for the integration of menstrual hygiene management (MHM) into global, national and local policies and programmes. On 28th May 2019, NHM Haryana celebrated Menstrual Hygiene Day in schools and Anganwadi centres with following objectives:-

Objectives:-

- Promotion of importance menstrual hygiene among adolescent girls
- Sensitization of Boys about importance of Menstrual hygiene & menstruation
- To address the community like parents & teachers through advocacy campaign

Target group:-

- Adolescent girls from schools & AWCs
- Adolescent boys from schools
- Teachers & parents

Strategy:-

- Information dissemination through infotainment activities

Coverage on 28th May 2019:-

<i>Sr. no.</i>	<i>Number of schools covered</i>	<i>Number of Anaganwadi centres covered</i>	<i>No of children sensitized</i>		<i>No of teachers sensitized</i>
			<i>Girls</i>	<i>Boys</i>	
1	3720	54	2,11,155	42,556	897

Activities conducted:-

- Group discussions with girls and boys
- Sensitization of teachers
- Rangoli competitions
- Henna competitions
- Slogan writing
- Painting Competition
- Skit / Role Play
- Declamation Contest on Menstrual Hygiene
- Audio video communication
- Sathiya app utilization

D. Announcements made by Hon'ble Chief Minister, Haryana

- I. **CM Announcement No 20743 dated 31.11.2017** for sanitary napkins of Shakti Project will be supplied in all 6th- 12th class girls in Govt. Girls Schools of Haryana, free of cost through Education Department, Haryana. Education Department will be the nodal department for this announcement and will procure the sanitary napkins for its targeted beneficiaries at their own level. As per the information received from Education Department

Haryana about the status, Indent was sent to DS&D on 09.07.2019 for floating of tender

- No. of Packets to be provided each month to each beneficiary: 1
- No. of Sanitary Napkins in each packet: 6
- Duration of Tender: 2 years
- Specifications: As per Haryana Medical Services Corporation Limited (HMSCL)
- FOR: School Level
- Current Status: Awaiting minutes of meeting of High Powered Purchase Committee for further action.

II CM Announcement No 20809 dated 21.03.2018 for providing free sanitary napkins to women of 10-45 years belonging to BPL families through Women and Child Development Department, Haryana. Women and Child Department will be the nodal department for this announcement and will procure the sanitary napkins for its targeted beneficiaries at their own level. The information received from Women & Child Development Department Haryana about status, As per the information of BPL cards available at Directorate of Food and Supplies Public Distribution System, the Total BPL families are 11,33,244. It is assumed that average number of women and adolescent girls (10-45 years) will be 2 in each family. The Total women population benefited in the State will be 22,66,488/- approximately. Each beneficiary will get one packet (6 napkins), free of cost, per month. For ensuring better quality of the sanitary napkins, Indent has been given to Supply and Disposal Department, Haryana. It was also decided in High Powered Purchase Committee meeting that Women & Child Development Department will ensure that minimum 85 lakh Packets out of the total

maximum quantity of 3.96 crores are made available to School Education Department. The Indenting Department confirmed that the final rates received in the meeting are reasonable. Accordingly, the Committee approved the placement of rate contract as per Rates/ Qty. in Para-4 above. The other specifications and terms & conditions will be as per NIT. Action on the above decisions will be taken after the approval of these proceedings from Hon'ble Chairman of HPPC and in anticipation of signing of these proceedings from the remaining members.